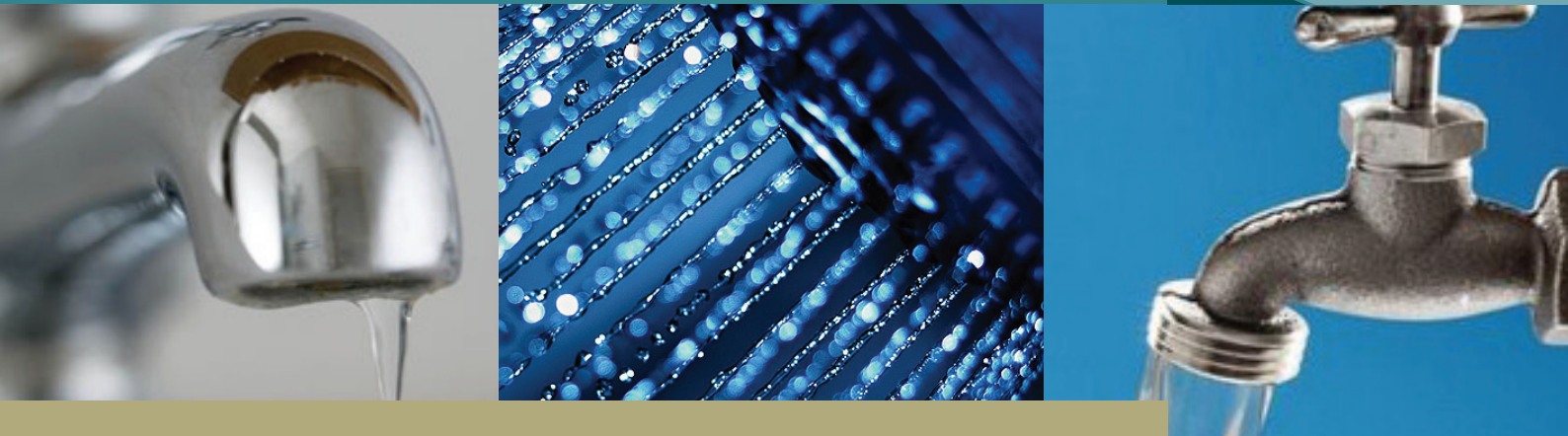


# Water Wise Fact Sheet 2



## Measuring the Flow – D.I.Y. Home Water Audit

A simple audit of your home will take around 15 minutes. The results will allow you to identify specific actions to help reduce your water bills and contribute to a more sustainable water supply catchment.

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED

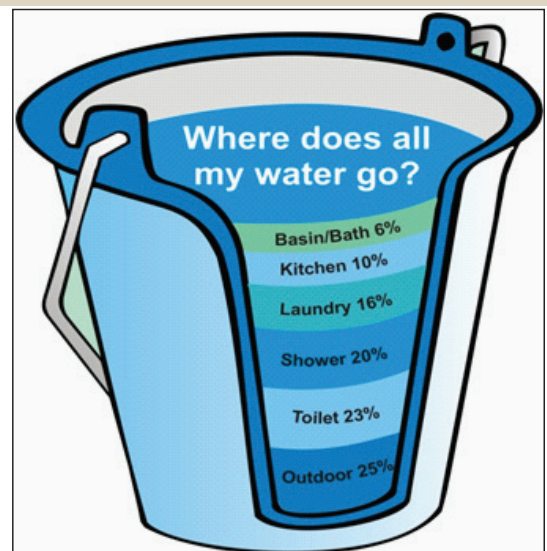
- Bucket, with litre markings on the side
- Stopwatch or wristwatch
- Pen or pencil
- Calculator or maths brain
- Copy of a recent water bill (optional)
- Internet access (optional)

### STEP 1 – TEST THE TAPS

Follow these steps at each tap and record the results in the table provided:

- a) Fully OPEN the cold water tap.
- b) Hold the bucket under the tap for 10 seconds, remove the bucket and turn the water off.
- c) Measure the amount of water in the bucket and multiply this amount by 6. This will give you a flow rate per minute. For example, if the tap delivers 4 litres in 10 seconds, then  $4 \times 6 = 24$  litres / minute.

Tap	Result		Litres / Minute	Recommended
Kitchen		x 6		6 L/min
Bath		x 6		9 L/min
Basin		x 6		6 L/min
Laundry		x 6		9 L/min



### AVERAGE AUSTRALIAN HOUSEHOLD WATER USAGE.

Note: The Tweed's outdoor average is likely to be lower due to higher rainfall.

### STEP 2 – TEST THE SHOWER

- a) Repeat TEST THE TAPS, but in the shower.

Shower	Result		Litres / Minute	Recommended
Bathroom		x 6		9L/min or less
Ensuite		x 6		9L/min or less
Other (Outdoors)		x 6		9L/min or less

# Water Wise Fact Sheet 2



## Measuring the Flow – D.I.Y. Home Water Audit continued

b) Rate the efficiency of your shower(s).

Litres / Minute	Rating	Water Efficiency
Less than 7	3 Star	Very Good
7 to 9	3 Star	Good
9 to 12	2 Star	Moderate
12 and above	1 Star	Poor

### STEP 3 – TEST THE MACHINES

a) Record the brand and model of your clothes washing machine and dish washing machine.

\* If you can't find the water rating or water consumption details on the machine, you can search for these details on the 'consumers product search database' on the WELS website at [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)

Clothes Washer

Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Star rating \_\_\_\_\_ AIM FOR: 4 ½ stars (or better)

Litres per wash \_\_\_\_\_ AIM FOR: <40 litres

Dish Washer

Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Star rating \_\_\_\_\_ AIM FOR: 4 ½ stars (or better)

Litres per wash \_\_\_\_\_ AIM FOR: <13 litres

### STEP 4 – TEST THE TOILETS

a) If you can't find the star rating or water consumption details on the toilet, you can search for these details on the 'consumers product search database' on the WELS website at [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)

Toilet

Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

Star rating \_\_\_\_\_ Litres per flush \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

AIM FOR: 4 stars (or better)

\* If you still have a single flush toilet you can estimate the volume of the cistern as follows:

Measure the length, width and depth of the cistern.

Length \_\_\_\_\_ cm Width \_\_\_\_\_ cm Depth \_\_\_\_\_ cm

b) Multiply the results and then divide by 1000

(\_\_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_\_ cm) / 1000

RESULT: \_\_\_\_\_ litres per flush

Note: This result will be a slight over-estimate as cisterns are not filled to the brim.

### STEP 5 – YOUR DAILY CONSUMPTION (optional)

a) Council has developed an on-line water calculator to help you calculate how much water you use every day. With your water bill in hand, go to [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/watercalculator](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/watercalculator) and follow the prompts.

RESULT \_\_\_\_\_ Litres / person / day

The shire average is around 200L / person / day

The shire target is 150L / person / day

### STEP 6 – REVIEW THE OUTCOMES

- How does your daily water consumption compare with the shire average? Do you meet the Target 150 challenge?
- Can the efficiency of your taps be improved with aerators or in-tap flow regulators?
- Does your shower need to be replaced with a water efficient model? (Priority 1)
- Does your toilet need conversion or replacement?
- Do you need a new washing machine?
- If your consumption is higher than anticipated, you might have a leak. Refer to Fact Sheet 9 – Reading your Water Meter for more information.

### STEP 7 – TAKE ACTION

For down to earth advice on how to implement these and other changes refer to the water wise fact sheets available at [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/water)

For example, refer to Fact Sheet 5 – In the Bathroom for information on replacing your shower.